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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGR-10 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

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---------- 124470
R 191400Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0120
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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UNCLAS ROME 3990

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT
SUBJECT: NATIONAL STRIKE MARCH 25 IN PUBLIC AND AGRICULTURAL
SECTORS

REF.: ROME'S 2371

1. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU)
HAS DECIDED TO CONDUCT A 24-HOUR NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ON MARCH 25.
THE STRIKE IS AIMED AT ACHIEVING PARITY WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY
AND COMMERCE IN THE COMPUTATION AND PAYMENT OF WAGE ESCALATIMMEEDRER
THESE TWO SECTORS. WORKERS IN ALL OTHER CATEGORIES ARE
TO STRIKE FOR ONE HOUR ON THE SAME DAY, IN AN ACT OF SOLIDARITY.

2. THE ONE-HOUR SOLIDARITY STRIKE IS IN LIEU OF A CGIL CALL
FOR ANATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE OF ALL CATEGORIES ON MARCH 25.
CISL AND UIL WERE OPPOSED. THE CCU THEREFORE DECIDED TENTATIVELY
TO CONDUCT A NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE, FOR "INVESTMENTS AND THE
MAINTENANCE OF EMPLOYMENT LEVELS," DURING THE FIRST HALF OF
APRIL, DEPENDING ON THE EVOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES IN
THE INTERIM.
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3. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNIONS ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING ACTIVELY WITH MINISTER COSSIGA ON THE WAGE ESCALATION ISSUE. THE UNIONS DEMAND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOP RATE (948 LIRE PER POINT OF PRICE INDEX RISE) FOR ALL BY THE END OF 1976. COSSIGA HAS OFFERED A PHASED IMPLEMENTATION BY MID-1978.
THIS REPRESENTS A GOVERNMENT CONCESSION OF SIX MONTHS FROM THE INITIAL OFFER. THE UNIONS SAY THEY LIKE THE TREND OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH THEY INTEND TO ACCELERATE WITH THE STRIKE ACTION.

4. AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ARE FACED WITH EMPLOYER RESISTANCE SINCE THEY NEGOTIATED IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR WAGE ESCALATION SYSTEM ONLY SOME SIX MONTHS AGO. AT THE TIME, THEIR TERMS WERE BETTER THAN THOSE IN INDUSTRY GENERALLY. NOW THEY ARE TRYING TO CATCH UP WHILE CONFAGRICOLTURA IS SAYING IT IS TOO EARLY TO REOPEN THE WAGE ESCALATION QUESTION.VOLPE

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